

Jan: 27 1829 . . . \$ No 15 6th.

27 Sansom An
Inaugural Dissertation

On

Dysentery

For

The degree of Doctor of Medicine

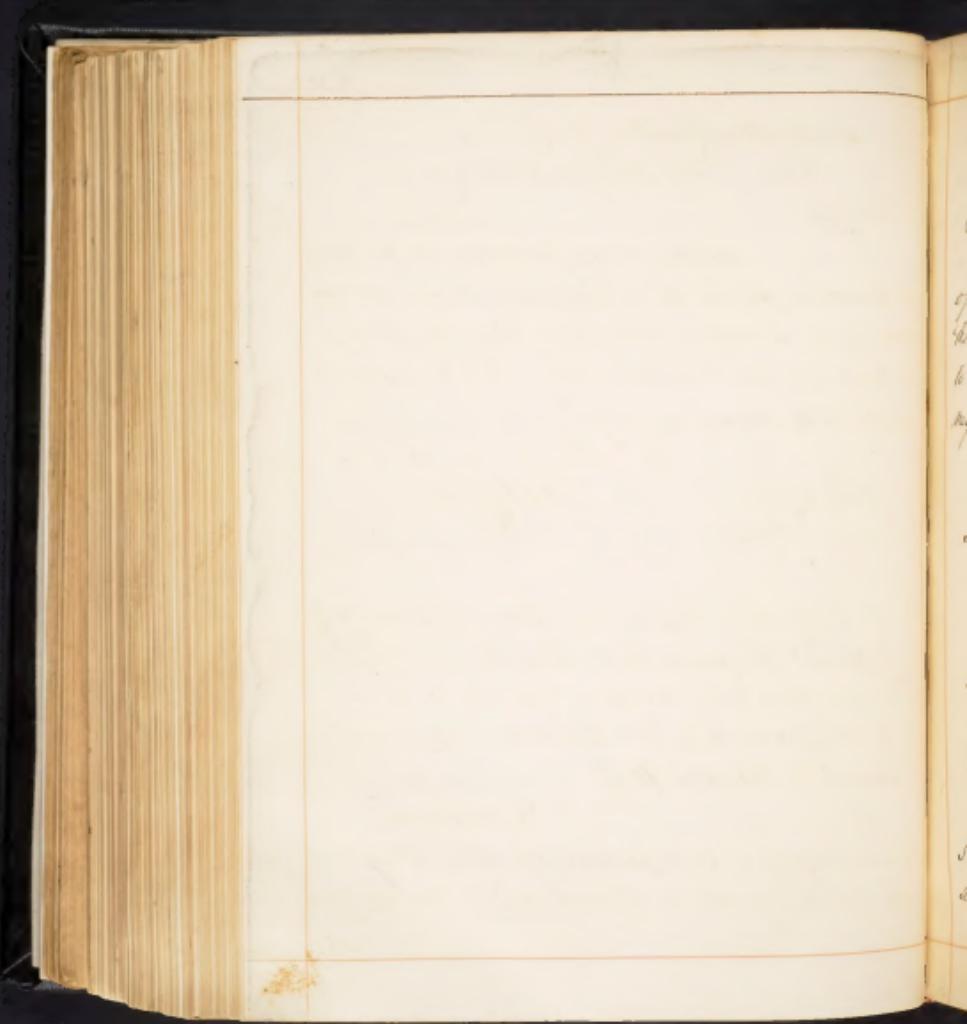
In the
University of Pennsylvania

By

Nicholas A. B. Stith

of Halifax
North Carolina

January 25th 1829



To Doctor Clayton M. C.
of Halifax North Carolina

Dear Sir

As my earliest instructor in the science
of Medicine, permit me to place your name, at the
head of the Dedication, which I have taken the liberty
to make of this Inaugural Essay, and to subscribe
myself truly and affectionately

Yr obliged friend

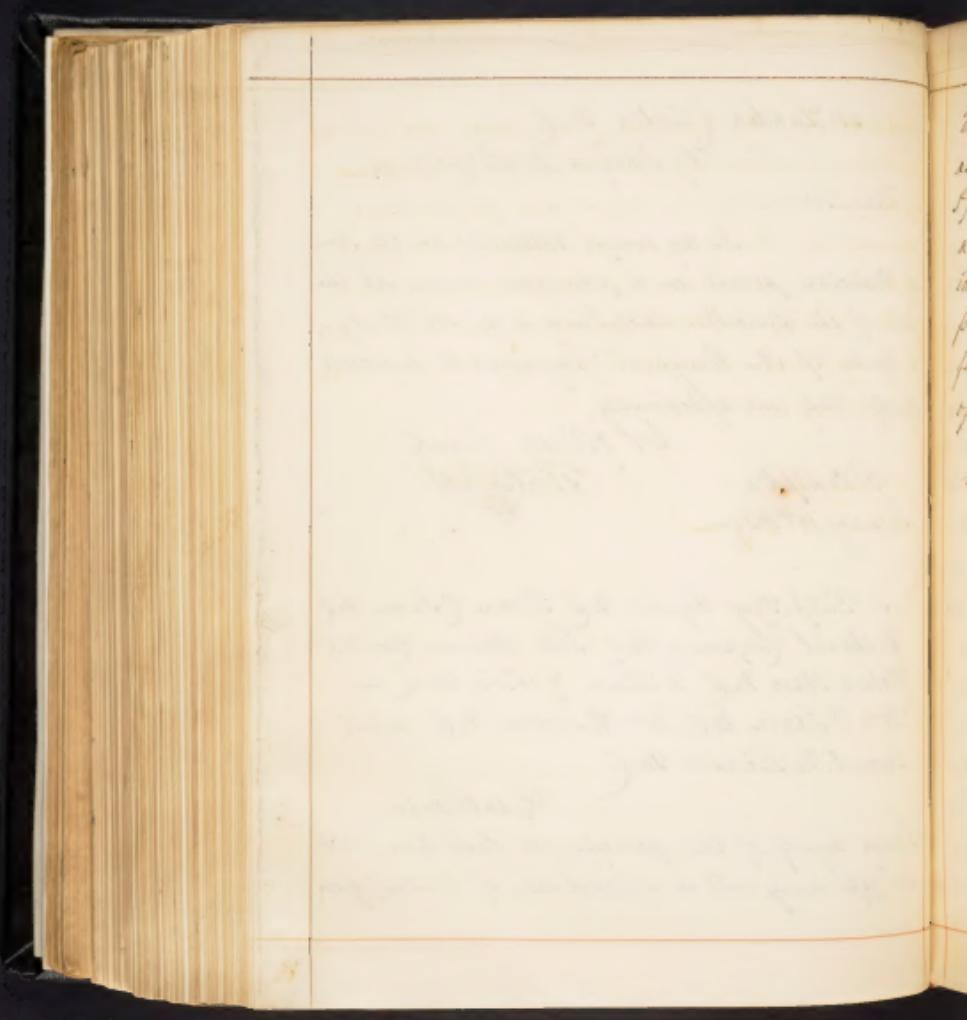
Philadelphia
January 15th 1829 -

Abel Smith

To Philip Syng Physick M.D. Thomas & James Mc
Nathaniel Chapman M.D. John Ridman Esq. M.D.
Robert Marc M.D. William Gibson M.D. —
Wm. D. Burns M.D. Wm. C. Motter M.D. and
Samuel M. Jackson M.D.

Gentlemen.

Permit myself of this, perhaps, the last time, that
an opportunity will be afforded me, of tendering you

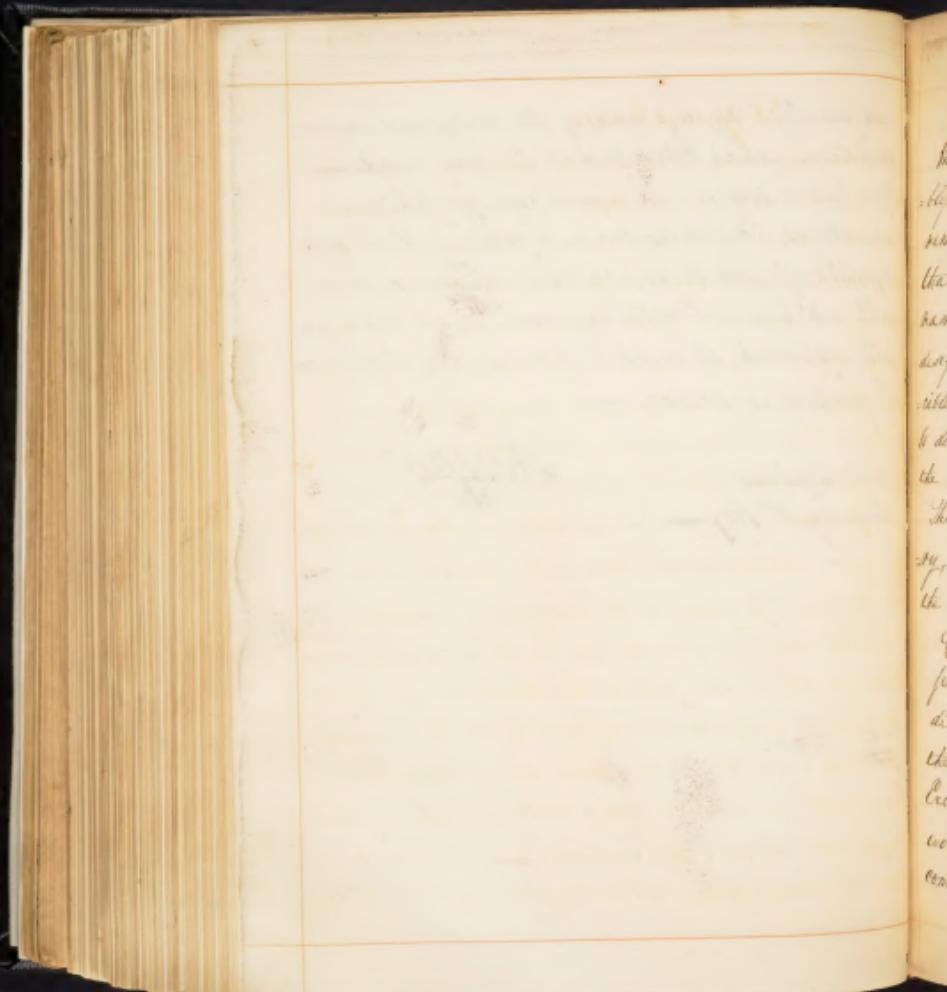


individually, my deep sense of the many and various
advantages, which I have derived at your hands.—
Spare you to believe, that a part from professional
advantages, I can never cease to retain, a lasting
impression of your invariable kind demeanour and
polite attention— I need say more, but I know you
fully appreciate, the emphatic remark, "the eloquence
of gratitude is silence" —

Philadelphia

January 11th 1829 —

F. D. Field



Dysentaria

In commencing an Inaugural Dissertation, I am principally impressed with the importance of the emphatic remark, which fell so frequently from the lips of that distinguished Teacher, the late Doctor Rush—namely, Truth is a Unit—In accordance with my design, State here also, to adopt the hardly less forcible language of a distinguished living Statesman and to declare "Truth is my object—and whensoever she points the way, I do not fear to follow"—

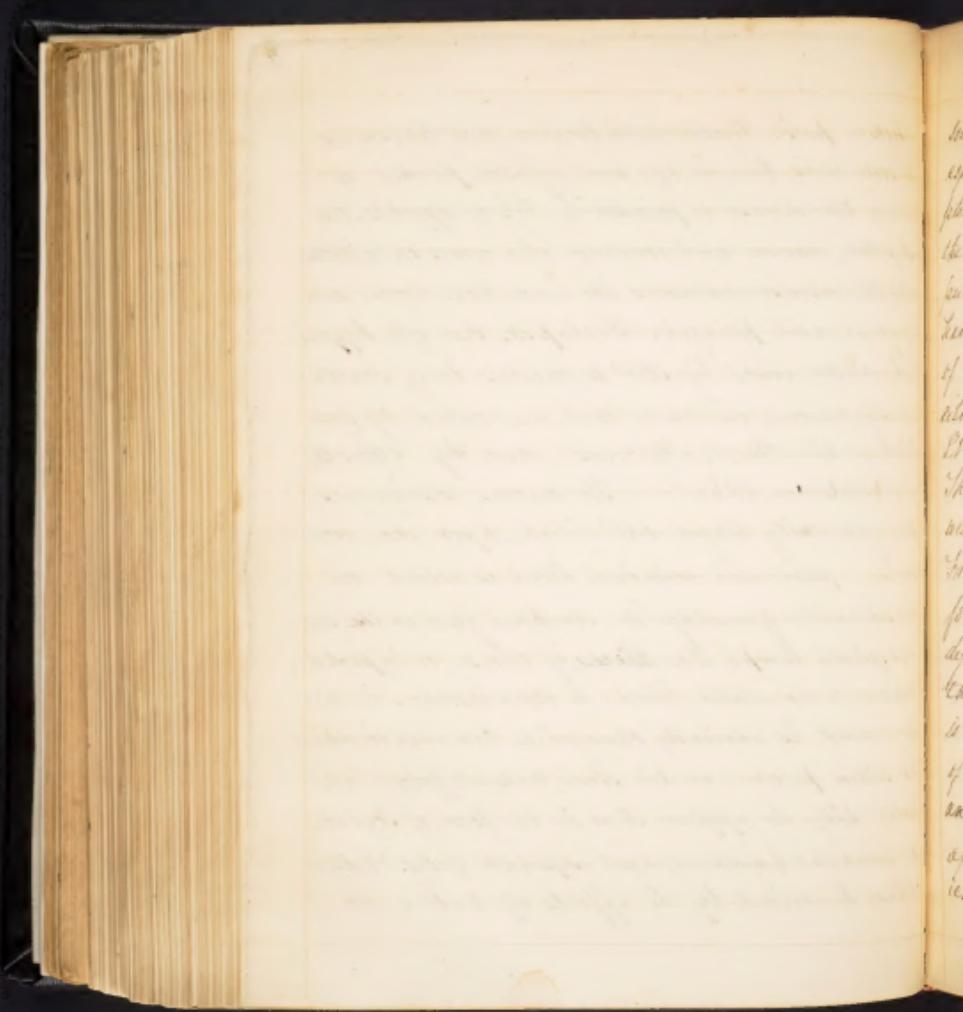
This preliminary remark, is all that is deemed necessary, before entering on the immediate investigation of the subject proposed to be discussed—

Gullen defines Dysenteria to be a Contagious fever, in which the patient has mucous or bloody discharge, with much griping and tenesmus, the fauces for the most part being retained. Except the fact of its being contagious, the definition would not require amendment—Dysentery comes on with chills, alternating with flushes of heat,

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frequent pulse, together with torments and convulsions. In some cases, however, the local affection proceeds, in others, the disease is preceded by loss of appetite, &c. &c. Niphalick, nausea and vomiting; then comes on irritation. As the disease advances, the evacuations become more frequent and painful. Frolapiss Oai often happens. The matter voided by stool is various, being sometimes merely mucus, without blood, and called by Doctor Rederer the "Morbus Macosus"—and by others the "Cystenteria Alba"—The mucous discharges are generally tinged with blood; upon some occasions a pure and unmixed blood is voided in considerable quantity. We sometimes find in the stool, coagulated lumps, like pieces of cheese, or impacted mucus, or coagulated blood. In other instances the matter voided is variously changed in colour and consistency. We seldom perceive in the stools, natural faeces, and when they do appear, it is in the form of scybala or somewhat hardened and seprate balls. Whether these be voided by the efforts of nature or



Shrubbed is not they proue a remission of the Complaint,
 rattling, hoarsine and hoarsness. Couerted with the Sun
 flower alwayes mentioned in Heron, which recovereth itselfe
 in the first. First note, they have farrin tongue, like
 unto the swallows or, all, but anise, coriander and
 fennel. This may be continued as the disease or course
 of the complaint. This year is singular shewing
 either the winter or summer. Remittent's, & phisick from
 the sunne, & either a remission or by degrees
 the fleshes are more than ordinary fleshes
 warmer upon touch to cold as vixen. verba. tanripe
 Smell, a desecable & stink. like, to Animal, or Putrid
 fles. The mouth procreateth malignant odour. &
 drest, bringes a helle infection of the fleshes
 the substance of which as a cause of this disease
 is strongly felt, a horre & unables to certain degree
 of heat & a similitud unto it, to be the perfect
 state of healthy action, but a sissing heat, constantly
 abhilit, & abhilit to the principle of evaporation
 it is the basis of life, and a mortall expellable

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called in October 1717, makes distinctly, is
the coquuence. An evident cause, is here only
nearly, to the production of the disease, of which
the most frequent, is cold. It is not the temperature
of cold, so much as the mode of its application,
that produces this complaint. It is, the partial
application of cold, while the body is at rest
which always, gives dangerous. If a current of
air blow on a man during the night, while he
is covered only, with his usual covering, appearing
as if even, with the best accommodations, his
heat or skin are uncovered, and exposed to
such earnest, the cold escape unsilently,
it may be seized, either with rheumatism,
in the vicinity of the parts thus exposed,
or with ophthalmia gallica, perhaps the
imnumber of his eyes or eyelids, either of
which I conceive to be important in producing
sudden transitions from heat to cold, is also
well known cause of many diseases. but

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very such transition is not hurtful. In Nufua where the cold is intense it is a common thing with the natives to go out of the huts with their clothes wet out with snow without experiencing the least uneasiness or smarting in any part. But when from a moderate warmth to which we have been for some time exposed, a transition is made to a degree of cold not very intense, it then becomes dangerous. Cold is particularly dangerous when accompanied with moisture - A man will be seized with Dysentery, by not changing his clothes after being wet, particularly his stockings. Soaking in a damp Room, will also produce the same effect. It would therefore be advisable for European Persons always to change their clothing, after having been exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, and to avoid sleepers in damp Rooms -
Cold produces dysentery I will not attempt

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an explanation. But it has been a prevailing opinion among Medical Men, that cold weather & yesterday, only by the clock, which it gives to perspiration, festing towards on the boards those humours which in health have passed by the exhalent vessels of the skin. Another cause of this disease, is the eating or drinking of acrimonious or putrid substances. Under this Head may be enumerated all spoiled fruits, all kinds of bad or mouldy victuals and intemperance in eating and drinking —

The Diagnosis is easy, it can only be mistaken for Stricture, which occurs more usually in Convalescence, and if occurs in a woman it is always labour ~~can take~~ continuing —

Protracted dysentry sometimes terminates in a few days, but is often protracted. If not early arrested, it becomes very severe and alarming. In pain increasing there is great prostration, the visceres become cold, causing total træstal, the abdomen swollen and

* See the opinion of the truly celebrated Doctor Sydenham p. 204. 1696. — Edm.

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boder to the touch. Gibber, Mucous and Effluvia
make their appearance, with a small full pulse,
and the urine discharge smells the washing of
putrid meat or dark greenish blood. Then Typhus
are generally the proximate cause of death. We have insta-
rred in record, however, of the occurrence of dysentery
where, even when typhus, either of Gibber has long
ab. and recaked for annum. It is then wise a duty in-
valuable to the Physician to persist in the remedial
at. and if death is apprehended. In the latter
stages of this complaint, the circumstances which de-
note a favourable termination are, a remission
of the abdominal pain, pulse, fuller and lighter,
the skin becoming moist and relaxed, the tongue red
and, the stools becoming less frequent and more
natural with a diminution of the tenesmus and incontinence.
Prof. Weston. In the examination
after death; the liver and spleen are found
swelled, with vessels and albumen about the Spleen
especially. We are informed by Sir John.

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Ringlet; that in observing a patient who died of Hydrocephalus, were mortified, and the Sphecius to do his own language "crippled" —

Pathology. By Tydsham, Morley and many other writers, dissipation is considered as a "fever turned up in the Brain," from suppressed perspiration, or the relief of which, they advise, sacrifices or such medicines as have a tendency to produce perspiration, to turn it out again; had truly in this way they will often succeed, for by drying and keeping up a constant sickness, the stimulation instead of being confined to the Brain, is by relation carried to the body, so equilibrium of the circulation is restored, and a speedy recovery is in result. By others, this way it is contended on the contrary, that the proximate cause (which is the ipsi morbus) of dissipation, is an "inflammation of the membranes in train of the cerebral canal" — which was long ago established in a work on "epilepsy."

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Clinical by Peter Simons, and his opinion
is supported by Peter Simons in his ad-
mirable work on "Phar. &c." He puts
inflammation in the heart, & muscles,
as an incidental inflammation, rather a symptom
an effect of the general exanthem, than
an original cause of the Exanthem, and a
brief survey of facts, will rectify the opinion,
for the first stage of opposition, when the
sarcia is cool, is far from there being any
inflammation. Now if inflammation, a dimen-
sion of arterial heat, exists now where, and the
substantial evidence of inflammation only
congrue with the reakments of the Heart and
arteries, which succeeds the first stage of
opposition! — It is declared by Simons, too
that in Quartern as in Fevers, inflammation
is not the principal cause, but undoubtedly
is the principal effect, which we are
to dread and endeavour to obviate —

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After a long attention to Oysterling, as it appell'd
great numbers under my care, and also as it aff-
fected myself & person, I can confidently assert
that two functions, appear'd to be constantly
discreet'd from the beginning, and which either
were produced or were accompanied by other
diseases. These were the functions of the
Kid and Liver or Perspiration and Salivary
secretion. Subl. Secreta are sometimes seen on
the surfaces, and occasionally as admixture
to sweat on the stools, but these are transitory
and morbid; for otherwise, the regular persip-
tation is suspended and the Salivary secretion
of the stopped. — These are the two first
links of that morbid chain, which connects
the Remote cause, with the extensible form
of the disease, and if this chain be severed,
by an early restoration of the two functions to
question, the disease will be checked. —
The next link in the chain of Oysterling,

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phrenia is the disturbance in the balance
of irritability, and of the circulation. It appears
to give to Senility, a bias to the Sore,
with sympathy with the those of the skin;
the circumference of which, a nervous plethora
prevails, throughout the whole of the Total
circ., and the mucous Membrane of the Stomach
and Digestive Sphincters are often un-nervously
developed. We may now plainly perceive
how all those consequences which have pro-
piled up for Cancer, can arise. If the
plethora be great, blood itself will be removed
from the mouth of the mesenteric vessels,
hence inflammation and even ulceration
may ensue. If any hardened fucus exist in
the cells of the skin, they will be grasped
by the irritable circular fibres of the skin,
and rings and strictures, will augment the
tumours and tenesmus of the bowels -

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uninflamed. The additional ease in this disease consists of less, heat, -
less to sudden impressions, colour, and
heat to vision. The quality of the skin being
as a mark of coming inflammation now
less, without spasm and constriction, and
awakening, susceptibility to remedial empoly
constriction is frequent, and should prevail
generally, all other remedial agents, in the a
out-join of this disease - and to obtain
its salutary effects, the detractions of blood
from the arm should ^{be} larger; and if the diffi
culty be great, say $\frac{2}{3}$ or triple with two
extubated to our ease. By copious blood-letting
we remove the constriction of the arteries,
produce relaxation and moistness of the skin
and perhaps do away the necessity of a gaze
recurrent to trachea. In the commencement
of an attack of Cystentia, the phlegm is
generally located, in the mucous tissue of the

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of the Plethora; this heat, or even gradually produced by ignorance, and the inflammation it generates, increases, so rapid that the doctor might be
detrimental, if not absolutely forbidden, or if ad
missable, the man a doctor of law for the
heat, might be insufficient of itself, to subdue its
inflammation. Then as an auxiliary, we should apply
Sectes over the abdomen, & very near the points
of Pityrope; placed, in either termine and covering
superior and oblique, inform us, that the
application of two Sectes, near the above, will
afford much relief. It has been usual ever since
the time of Hippocrate, with physicians to begin
the treatment of the complaint with an Emetic;
and the Italian practice will administer an
Emetic, reserving of the violent state of the disease
the spirit of chloroform and must be, of chlorine
preferable, of the most severe contraries against
commonly, Pityrope is the predominant symptom
and it tends to that has the ascendancy.

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the administration of an Emetic, might not only
prove it useless but sometimes, to induce to an abs-
olute remission these symptoms, which we should
attempt to alleviate, if not entirely to remove.
But when the Stomach is loaded, thereby causing
hawking and distension an Emetic is certainly
indicated, and the immediate exhibition demanded
if either or no吐isces be present. To fulfil
the second indication, it may be proper to
revert to an Emetic. Sipuanwanha in the dose
of 3 grs & 3/4 in combination with Sichu drops or
Sundanam or, generated by Mr. Steffens, a
tincture of Bengal nut being expeditious and
successful. In the violent cases of Epilepsy to
relieve the Distress, we may give 30 grain
Mann. several times, on the枕骨, the temple,
ear lobe. At the bath, and during high
degree of temperature, the mercurial purges,
seem to be particularly applicable. Calomel alone
or in combination with theithian Palmarum.

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and if truly so do operable, succeeded by the
cathartick movement, will generally obtain. In
cases of stupor during a fever, we should never
desert to Calomel or the Salic. pills. & when
inhibition or opiate must be given, various
are the remedies for Arodyasis, & the former
is, Camphor. Opium alone is, however Opium and
the distilled Spirit of Wine & Water have better
qualities in combining a far preferable to
any thing else, the Kind, Share & proportion,
combination of the former Opium and Camphor
say, to be added in the proportion of

38 Camphor &c. &c.

100 grm. 1. 12

Take not less, it is, for a tincture. & it will be
dyses suggested, and others have, add, the
remedy looks like a clear white Luminous
and other associations, and afforded a strong
suffice to accomplish, usually, with grave
and moderate Diaphoresis. & he who are less, want

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with this disease, know the salutary consequences, resulting from a few hours of an disturbed sleep; that it invigorates the整个的 system, and enables the patient, to undergo such wholesome evacuations, as may be subsequent to indicated. Here then as promised the following prescriptions will be found useful according to the state of the patient.

R. Acid. Nitrici, f. 3
Mistur. Camphorae, f. 3viii
Succ. Opii, m XL

A stable spoonful every other minutes
to relieve tertiana and bracomas we may
give the following

R. Ol. Ricini, f. 3

Pain. Cam. Secae, 3

Sacchar. Panipat, 3

Succ. Opii. XL

Mg. Menth. Woods, f. 3iv.

A stable spoonful every hour

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R Magnes Sulphat 3*ss.*

Acid. Tartar. f. 3*ss.*

A small spoonful every, fifteen minutes

R Sulph. Opia -

R Magnes Sulphat 3*ss.*

Vineg. Opia m. 1.

No. 2000. f. 3*ss.*

A small spoonful every fifteen minutes

Emmata.

R neck melted Sulphur 1*lb.*

R Cold water 1 *pt.*

All that has been said, is applicable they
to the early or inflammatory stage. It was
said by Hippocrate that probably is a known
acute or fatal painful affection of the lungs, holding
that inflammation arises from irritation, and
that the treatment proper is the sweating mode.
But he, who confides alone on Diaphoresis, in the

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cur of this disease, will find the full account
in the treatise which such a practice will occasion
Wednesday in the certain words "that the disease
is dependant on simple plethora of the Spleen
and Liver, and to be treated by venesection and their
auxiliaries and astringents." But such the
uses and modes of practice, are in themselves but
"and exert to the minds of young men a
most pernicious tendency... notably in that charac-
teristic of all men, but more especially of young
men, who instead of searching after truth and
sane government by its mandates, will adhere most
firmly to them, carried with them some plausi-
bility, no matter how incorrect, how impious,
or how injurious in their consequences. Practical
and not theoretical information should be the
study of all medical men, who are in possess-
ion of clinical medicine or knowledge. From all
the information that Scar collects from various
authors on this subject; I conceive that the

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Skin, Liver, and other secretory organs are disordered; and that the restoration of them, with proper performance of their function, should be the primary consideration of the Physician, we should adapt his medicines to such organs as might chance to be injured or deranged; for only by such happy adaptation, can health & action be restored to those parts. The existing treatment under some restrictions, is certainly sometimes indicated and often successful — After inflammatory action has been reduced, and the *Prima Viscer* evacuated, to relieve intestinal irritation, rectify the above disorders and produce a deterioration to the ear's sake. We may administer the following,

'℞ Gum opii 14 grs

(alcohol XVI)

Bals. Skueæ viij gr.

(Divide into eight doses and take one every two or three hours. But as a more power-

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al Siphonie, the Colon Gender is recommend'd, which seems independantly of the general action to exert a kind of specific influence, on the absorption of serous and tenacious fluid, so as to proceed with the greatest advantage. And when these symptoms exist with slight duration, perhaps we could avail ourselves of the antiseptics more advantageously than the aperient.

18 Colon Serum 99 +

Rhub. Specularis 14

Cane sugar XXIV

Loaf sugar 3 - 4

Divide into six equal portions, one of which is to be exhibited once in two hours until the griping and other discharges cease. A cap of some liquid extract may be occasionally administered, so as not by over distension of the Stomach, to produce unpalatable nausea and distress. The Antiseptics, are highly spoken of by Dr Georgette, Mr John Pringle, and many of the English

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Physicians in this stage of the disease: They contend that the Antemortis Vapour bath, in its effects, is more certain and of longer duration, than the anti-sea Specum-an-ha, but the preference is given to the latter by Dr. Cooper & Mr. Chapman, than who, no higher authority is requisite: To assist the aforesaid remedies, we should apply warm fomentations to the Stomach and abdomen; these subdue phlegm, and consequently relieve spasms. The general use of the warm bath has also been recommended, especially in cases of violent hysterical tendencies, may be resorted to. Mercury injected, blood generally and topically, & occluded the Abdominal canal, and the disease continue unchecked, we shall experience the happiest effects, from the application of a Blister, large enough to involve a principal portion of the abdomen. The sixt^y stage

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of dysentery, which may give the option, Cast
Ammonias and Nitre Salts, with certain limitations
for the latter, the Spec of Saponaria is the most
appropriate. When phlegmous it arises so degener-
ately into a syringue, an infusion of Ropponum
internally, as well as in the form of an Emulc.,
is a most valuable remedy, Drunks. These
should be poulticed, such as Starkey water,
Rice water, Mucilage of Gum Arabic, Sago,
Almond Milk, and the like mixtures of Githania.
as it occurs in Credid Apartment, Hippocrate,
he is said to be Cantagous, which has been ex-
plained by the "Epileps. i.e. arising from the secret
ions and excretions" - Such an Hypothesis
is absurd. It is diametrically opposite to the
opinion and observation of Hernandez. It
is assisted by Foster & Hunter, the Author of a
late work on the Liver, and the diseases of
Tropical Climates, that neither dysentery nor
any other attendant symptomatology, pre-



is contagious & it is presumable, if this disease
be of a contagious nature, that Dr. Shadley,
who cultivated it on so large a scale, must
have seen it, in the course of his practice,
a few such persons. But to such the language
of the Doctor "Shall see it in the East and in
the West, in the North and in the South, in Italy
and in Spain, in France and in Flanders,
and not a single instance, have I ever seen." Now
that Syphilis per se is often associated with
dysentry, the Indication would then be, to genera-
lize excitement, and of the pector vises, have
recourse to the section. In this form of the dis-
ease mercury is the only alternative, and the
strength of the patient is to be sustained by
disinfective stimulants, having a Diaphoretic
Tendency; we must persist in this as of the
Mercury, until Hydatum is produced. The credit
of Alteration is originally due to Coughet, who
prescribed Calonil and opium to purgative.

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but was ultimately convinced of the superior efficacy of Hyssop. His effect attained, he soon asserts an invincible cure. The practice was nearly as prevalent in the Islands of Hind in the West, and was found highly so by Balfour and Macleay in the East Indies. —

Suckahoe

We have often occasion to admire the goodness of the Great Author of Nature, in supplying even the most barbarous still and savage with medicinal articles. In many parts of America there grows a plant called Suckahoe. "A succulent, fleshy, hairy, allied to the parrot-bean. It is found in woods, more or less open, where it grows from an acre to thirty pounds in weight, a brown, corrugated bark, &c. Its whole substance is uniform, solid, insipid, farinaceous, with little or no taste, or smell. I have frequently experienced the efficacy

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of this plant or Sarsaparilla, 12. drams of half
an ounce in a pint of thin Stock, and boiled
down to half a pint or quart (a little stronger of
which may be taken every hour or two)
will produce a gentle operant operation. having
strong tendency to correct the 黑色 Stools,
ulcers formed. and tenesmus. with uniform
and gentle perspiration. and consequently
may be expected to give rise, within a reason-
able period to natural, warm evacuations.
Should any think this dangerous, I would add
that the bark, root, or Opposite of Sarsaparilla, but on
under the impression that here final results
would attend its administration. In the non-
chronic form of the disease. poster that,
has said, who know but that at the root
of the sarsaparilla, blooms a plant which
is an infallible cure for the consumption.
Why go to Europe for the famous Mervine
I am a perfecto? This is common

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and Gardens produce the equally efficacious Garlic. Let us not trample with disdain on the roots and herbage of our soil. But let us remember

" Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waives its envelope on the desert air,

Cholera. (a gouty sea.) This is a certain disease, it is a different disease, from the usual. It too is an acute, septic, tertian, and the discharge an either thin or alone, or mucous liquid, with blood. — It may, indeed, feed not digested, sanguine white in the body, florid on the margin; the stool, purpureum, hard and concreted, with an irregular irritation, fever in the evening. The treatment consists of small and frequent abstractions of blood, from the arm, moderate purgatives and plasters, the steam bainage.



or Webbs. The mode of applying this is as follows, for a single side of the Standard, an iron band over the skin a division; and over this a flannel band, which should be bound rather tight, and in a uniform manner, till the grain nearly to the arm pit, and back again. According to the present mode of applying the Standard Bandage or Webbs, I should suppose, that it would be very difficult to keep the Webbs from slipping, to do away, that inconvenience, I would suggest, a Leather strap, binded with flannel, with straps and buckles attached to the margins, also with a strap to run over the shoulders or in other words, the strap should be made like a Soddy's forst. By such an Apparatus, we can give mechanical support to the Standard, and keep up a uniform degree of temperature. This would certainly, put up all the virtues of the Bandage, and be free from its disadvantages. Of the two

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should be mortidly affected, small doses
of Calomel or the White Pill are to be given,
this last is strongly demanded. Often
should be much delity the Nitric acid
or what perhaps is better, the Nitro Muriat
ie Reid's Watt. & It will often, in this stage
of the disease, that an injection of the Hydro
Succinic Liniment, such as, the Hydro. Succin.
Sagum Soap. &c will have a salutary
effect. With this imperfect remark, I must
close this attempt at a delineation, of a
disease of frequent recurrence, and often
of dire and extensive malignancy, in various
sections of our country; to have been enabled
to have done some share of justice
to a subject so important, would have been
to me a source of lasting pride and applica-
tional pleasure. And while I know "the world in
most fails to command success" I must freely
admit, that it would have afforded me -

* Chapman's Therapeutics, Volume II. p 480-483

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inexpressible pleasure, to have been enabled
with propriety to say "I have deserved it"—
A remark more closely related I say. "In the
hour of distress and despair, when the hopes
and expectations, of families, depend on the
existence of a Father, a Mother, a Child,
stretched on the bed of disease; Medicine
with its salutary aid, like an angel of light,
dropping healing from its wings, dispels the
gloom, wipes the tear, from afflictions eyes,
and bears the balm of comfort to the con-
quished heart"—* But alas, this beautiful
picture, drawn as it is by a hand, which
holds a pencil, whose every line is touched
with the poorest hints of genius and the most
brilliant efforts of fancy, is not always
in truth of colouring, perfect. The beauty
of the vision is, unhappily often lost in
the staid touches of sober reality. Human
skill will not always avail, professional

See Dr Samuel Jackson's Introductory Lecture

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exertions must sometimes prove abortive; and we are left to sigh over the imperfection of our Science, and grieve over the destruction of our best and dearest Hopes. The most ingenuous exertions of our art fail; the haughty of immediate disease, displays his pallid banner; the cold dews of death, gather on the pale brow, of an affectionate Husband, a beloved Wife, or a dutiful Child, and where the "Monster" fails to sever the dearer ties, his dart is often levelled, at some beloved friend, and companion, bearing us in intensity of feeling, to exclaim

"Tis the Survivor dies" —

